

LONG QUESTION ANSWER*

Q1. I believe that the civilization India has evolved is not to be beaten in the world.' What does Gandhi mean by this statement? Do you subscribe to his views?

Gandhi wants to say that almost all ancient civilisations of the world either destroyed or changed their shape. Majesty of Roman empire, Greek empire, Babylon and even China are not in their ancient forms. Rome, Greek, and Babylon disappeared from the map of the world while, China changed the form of their civilisation as they choose the way of modernisation and capitalism. India have not changed their civilisation tough many foreign invasions took place time to time here. It is gravity of Indian civilisation that all foreign invaders intermingled in Indian civilisation with all of their cultural characteristics. It is the merit of our civilization that we survived till today. We need nobody's guidance. I subscribe to Gandhiji's viewpoint.

Q2. 'We notice that the mind is a restless bird, the more it gets the more it wants, and still remains, unsatisfied.' How do these metaphors help Gandhiji in persuading the readers?

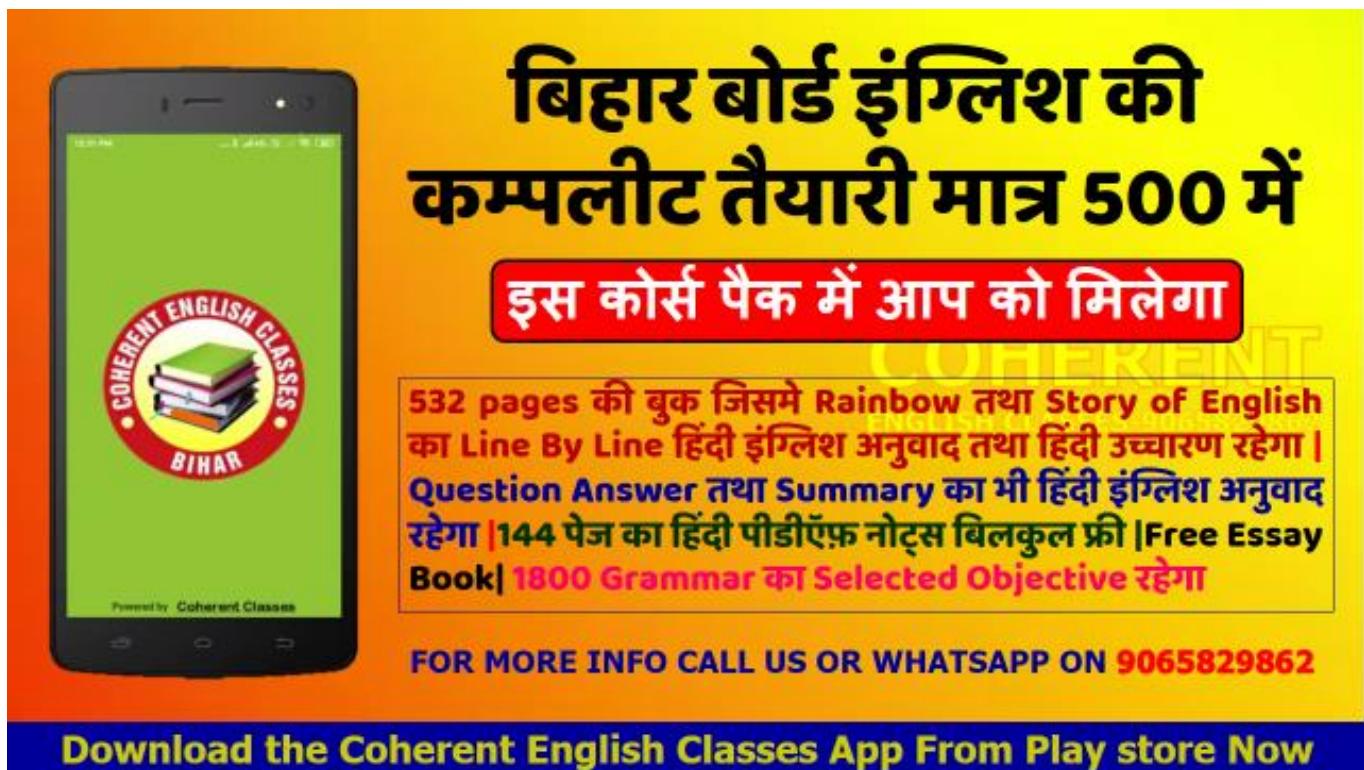
The mind is restless bird because of our strong drive to search for happiness, but paradoxically, the real quest for happiness can only begin as we start to gain some control over the mind!. Not only Gandhi but even a western thinker think the same. Which is obvious by this line "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." Gandhi was talking about our universal search for happiness; because there are skillful ways you can go about that, and a quiet mind is necessary for any real happiness. So seeing through the lives and evolution of great men and women of this world allude towards one fact of their accomplished lives. And that is, they had an almost perfect control upon their thoughts, ideas, actions and results through disciplining their minds. So in a way we can assume that amongst the three, mind if trained or tamed on the principles of disciplined and well controlled thoughts leading to highly predictable actions and results of actions, has a supirior position. So probably a great mind like Gandhi, must be facing a situation or scenario he had never planned of and must be feeling a great experience of productive guilt emanating out of such failing forward emerged due to bad mental control.

Q3. 'A man is not necessarily happy because he is rich, or unhappy because he is poor. The rich are often seen to be unhappy, the poor to be happy.' What, according to Gandhi, holds key to real happiness? How does Gandhi define 'happiness'?

According to Gandhiji, happiness is a state of mind. Wealth and luxuries do not make a man happy. The wealthy are not always happy and the poor are not always unhappy. Luxuries and comforts often become a burden and cause physical and mental pain. People who work enjoy better health and happiness than those who are slaves to machines and others. By multiplying our desires we become less and less happy. That is why our ancestors put a limit on our indulgence. Self-restraint is the key to happiness.

Q4. Why did our ancestors feel satisfied with small villages? Did they do the right thing? Will it be wise today to follow our ancestors in this connection? Give your own view.

Not exactly. wealth leads to happiness? That's not always the case. Money can certainly help you achieve your goals, provide for your future, and make life more enjoyable, but merely having the stuff doesn't guarantee fulfillment. Prosperity helps to remain in state of happiness but it doesn't push towards happiness. There are so many stories depicting about how a beggar lives a happy and self content life while a king has wealth but he is unhappy and unsatisfied. Prosperity leads oneself to reduce tensions in day today life . But if someone is greedy and thrive for more wealth than it cant .In my view good health,right attitude towards life , honesty these things leads to happiness.



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Q5. Discuss the negative features of western civilization.

Western culture is also called European civilization, Western civilization or Western lifestyle. It is based on certain belief systems, traditional customs moral and ethical values. According to Gandhi, modern Western civilisation is characterised by the many negative features like greed, aggression, colonialism, exploitation, extravagance and luxury, uncontrolled individualism and vulgar materialism, immorality, valueless and commercial education, and so on. The western civilization give more stress on materialistic progress than spiritual enlightenment. They spent their energy on physical discoveries. Unfortunately, The effect of western culture is greatly seen in our customs, tradition, social and moral behavior, our love

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and respect for others. It's time to realize the harmful effects of western culture, and do not adopt those cultural practices that are degrading the quality of human life.

Q6. What is the essential difference between the Indian civilization and the western civilization? How is our civilization superior to the western civilization?

Gandhiji sketch out the distinguishing characteristic and unique features of Indian civilization and culture. Gandhiji has emphasized that the Indian civilization and culture can't be competed by any other civilization in the world because its Foundation is based on morality and restriction of Human wants. Gandhi also points out that, it criticizer put the charges against it that Indian civilization is a civilization of ignorant and uncivilized people because they don't accept any changes but he thinks it differently, according to him the main reason behind that the Indian civilization is flourishing is it's immovability and it is her Glory. If we change the foundation of our civilization we will lose our moral fiber and our condition would become pitiable. It is useless to compare the merit of Indian civilization with Western civilization because both suited to it own respective spheres Western civilization is based on the indefinite multiplicity of human wants however Indian civilization is based on restricting of those wants. There is no doubt that Indian civilization is one of the best Civilization in the world So it is a responsibility of every Indian to clings the old Indian civilization even as a child clings to the mother breast

Q7. 'A certain degree of physical harmony and comfort is necessary but above a certain level it becomes a hindrance instead of help.' Elaborate.

When our body gets used to a certain level of comfort then we will only feel comfortable at that level e.g. comfort in fan, cooler or air conditioner. Different people have a different perception of comfort and will seek a corresponding level of comfort according to their perceptions. By nature man is fond of comfort and happiness so he goes on making desires and ambitions one after the other to enjoy more in life. To lead a comfortable life he also accumulates many facilities, so that his life may become full of comfort and happiness. happiness depends upon our thinking, so many times we are surrounded by materialistic possessions but we feel unsatisfied. People think that their happiness depends upon facilities but is it not so; happiness depends upon our thinking or our mental satisfaction. happiness is a state of mind. Wealth and luxuries do not make a man happy. The wealthy are not always happy and the poor are not always unhappy. Luxuries and comforts often become a burden and cause physical and mental pain.